



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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William J. Moloney
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ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES GUIDELINES

Children enrolled in our public educational system are entitled to basic school health nursing services. Colorado has several models for the delivery of school nursing. Because basic services and the role of the school nurse have not been defined, health services are not standardized from one district to another. In addition, the number of school nursing positions has been slowly decreasing.

The goal of school health is to maintain the physical, mental, and social health of children so they can benefit maximally from their educational opportunities and to assist students in the development of positive health attitudes and practices so that they will be able to assume responsibility for their own health and health care after leaving the school community..

Essential School Health Services Guidelines was developed as a joint project of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado School Nurse Supervisors, and the Colorado Association of School Nurses to identify those school health services delivered by school nurses that schools must provide. This document further identifies those services that enhance the quality of health for all students.

In addition to the guidelines, a tool to assess the level of services being provided was also developed. It is hoped that these documents will be used to identify gaps in services and to enhance the level of health services for Colorado students.

June 1, 1999

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES GUIDELINES

Coordinate mandated health services in the educational environment

- Identify students with health needs requiring modifications or accommodations in the school setting
- Delegate, train and supervise Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
- Provide the health component for special education assessments and related activities
- Provide the health component for child find assessments and related activities
- Provide the health component for 504 Accommodation Plans and related activities
- Develop and implement Individual Health Service Plans for students with health care needs
- Implement screening programs

Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease

- Promote and monitor immunizations
- Institute appropriate disease control measures
- Assist in the development of policy and provide recommendations to support public health law
- Educate about infectious and nuisance diseases

Protect against environmental hazards

- Assess and provide recommendations regarding environmental safety
- Assist in the development of policy to provide a safe school environment

Provide assessment and evaluation of the school population

- Identify health problems of students
- Conduct screening programs
- Track absenteeism and its impact on learning of individual students
- Assess student health risk behaviors and protective factors
- Communicate health and wellness issues to school and community

Prevent illness and injury

- Provide for the administration of medications/treatments
- Provide education regarding child protection issues
- Promote a safe and drug free school environment
- Monitor accident /incident reports for school safety issues
- Initiate prevention programs based assessment of high-risk behaviors

Promote healthy behaviors

- Provide interventions to promote healthy behaviors and prevent child and adolescent morbidity/mortality
- Participate in comprehensive health education programs and curriculum development
- Provide individual, small group, and classroom health counseling and classroom teaching

Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery

- Design response plans to assist all special needs students in emergencies
- Participate in the development of emergency plans for natural, man-made and hazardous materials disasters
- Participate in crisis-response teams

Assure the quality and accessibility of health services

- Assure the provision of first aid and provide triage for physical and mental health issues
- Align school health programs with National and State standards
- Assist families in accessing resources
- Communicate and coordinate with other school programs
- Collaborate and coordinate with community health services and other outreach programs
- Serve as a liaison between student, school, parent, and community health care providers and organizations
- Work with school health or medical advisory councils

Collect, interpret and evaluate data

- Evaluate school health services
- Submit annual reports to state and local boards
- Collect evidenced-based data to improve and support school health services



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The Essential School Health Services Guidelines assessment tool is intended to be used to assist school personnel in assessing the level of health services available to students. Those elements of service identified with an asterisk must be provided by the school nurse as a minimum level of service. Colorado School Laws 1998, Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado, revised 1998 (Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment), The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, 1997 revisions, The Exceptional Children's Educational Act of Colorado, and The Americans With Disabilities Act, provide the basis for these mandates. In addition, The Colorado Nurse Practice Act further governs the practice of school nursing.

It is recommended that when assessing the delivery of nursing services that the number of full time nursing FTEs also be taken into consideration. Because the number of students with complex medical needs attending their home schools is increasing, and with the recent Supreme Court Ruling in Garret vs. Cedar Rapids School District, school districts are being asked to provide complex nursing services. For these health needs to be safely met, it is imperative that districts have adequate professional school nurse coverage. The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) recommends a ratio of 1 FTE Registered Nurse for every 750 regular education students.

This tool will assist school districts in identifying gaps in the delivery of health and nursing services to their student population. Once gaps have been identified, districts will be better able to provide the best possible health and nursing services for their students.

June 1, 1999

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES GUIDELINES

SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

		In Place	Not In Place	Provided By Which Discipline
Health services in the educational environment	• Identify students with health needs requiring modifications or accommodations in the school setting			
	• Delegate, train and supervise Unlicensed Assistive Personnel			
	• Provide the health component for special education assessments and related activities			
	• Provide the Health component for child find assessments and related activities			
	• Provide the health component for 504 Accommodation Plans and related			
	• Develop and implement Individual Health Service Plans for students with health care needs			
	• Implement screening programs			
Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease	• Promote and monitor immunizations			
	• Assist in the development of policy and provide recommendations to support public health law			
	• Institute appropriate disease control measures			
	• Educate about infectious and nuisance diseases			
Protect against environmental hazards	• Assess and provide recommendations regarding environmental safety			
	• Assist in the development of policy to provide a safe school environment			
Provide assessment and evaluation of school population	• Identify health problems of students			
	• Conduct screening programs			
	• Track absenteeism and its impact on learning of individual students			
	• Assess student health risk behaviors and protective factors			
	• Communicate health and wellness issues to school and community			

ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES GUIDELINES SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

		In Place	Not In Place	Provided By Which Discipline
Prevent Illness & injury	• Provide for the administration of medications/treatments			
	• Provide education regarding child protection issues			
	• Promote a safe and drug free school environment			
	• Monitor accident /incident reports for school safety issues			
	• Initiate prevention programs based on assessment of high risk behaviors			
Promote healthy behaviors	• Provide interventions to promote healthy behaviors and prevent child and adolescent morbidity/mortality			
	• Participate in comprehensive health education programs and curriculum development			
	• Provide individual, small group, and classroom health counseling and classroom teaching			
Assure the quality and accessibility of health services	• Assure the provision of first aid and provide triage for physical and mental health issues			
	• Align school health programs with National and State standards			
	• Assist families in accessing resources			
	• Communicate and coordinate with other school programs			
	• Collaborate and coordinate with community health services and other outreach programs			
	• Serve as a liaison between student, school, parent, and community health care providers and organizations			
	• Work with school health or medical advisory councils			
Collect, interpret and evaluate data	• Evaluate school health services			
	• Submit annual reports to state and local boards			
	• Collect evidenced-based data to improve and support school health services			